

that the ADC's would not be required to be "primarily" involved in the provision skilled nursing services and therapy services. They would have to provide those services, but because ADC's provide services to an array of patients, skilled nursing services and therapy services may not always be their primary activity. Otherwise, all the home health requirements would apply to ADC's.

Here is an example of how the system would work if this bill were law. A patient is prescribed home care by his or her doctor. At that time the patient and his or her family decide how to arrange for the services. They could choose to receive all services through the home, or could choose to substitute some adult day care services. So, if the patient had 3 physical therapy visits and 2 home health aide visits, they could decide to take the home health aide visits at home, but substitute 3 days of ADC services for the physical therapy visits. On those days, the patient would be picked up from home, taken to the ADC, receive the physical therapy, and receive the additional benefits of the ADC setting (group therapy, meals, socialization, and transportation). All of these services would be incorporated into the payment rate of 95 percent of the home setting rate for the physical therapy service. It is a savings for Medicare and an improved benefit to the patient—a winning solution for everyone.

Adult day care centers (ADC's) are proving to be effective, and often preferable, alternatives to complete confinement in the home. States are taking advantage of their services for Medicaid patients today. Homebound people can utilize these centers because they provide door-to-door services for their patients. ADC's send special vehicles and trained personnel to a patient's home and will go so far as to get the patient out of bed and transport them to the ADC site in specially equipped vehicles. Without this transportation component, homebound patients would not be able to utilize such a service.

For certain patients, the ADC setting is far preferable to traditional home health care. The ADC can provide skilled therapy like the home health provider, but also provide therapeutic activities and meals for the patients. These centers provide a social setting within a therapeutic environment to serve patients with a variety of needs. Thus, patients have the opportunity to interact with a broad array of people and to participate in organized group activities that promote better physical and mental health. Rehabilitation can be enhanced in such a setting.

Again, it is important to note that ADC care provides an added benefit to the caregivers for frail seniors or disabled individuals. When a Medicare beneficiary receives home health services in the home, these providers are not in the home all day. They provide the service they are paid for and then leave. Many frail seniors cannot be left alone for long periods of time and this restriction prevents their caregivers from being able to maintain employment outside of the home. If the senior were receiving ADC services, they would receive supervised care for the whole day and the primary caregiver would be able to maintain a job and/or be able to leave the home for longer periods of time.

This is a small step forward for rehabilitation therapy for seniors and disabled individuals. Eligibility for the home health benefit is not

changed so it is not an expansion of the benefit. Patients would greatly benefit from the option of an adult daycare setting for the provision of home health services. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this incremental, important Medicare improvement.

MR. AMIGO 1998

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the 1998 "Mr. Amigo," Jorge Ortiz de Pinedo, chosen recently by the Mr. Amigo Association of Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico. Each year the Mr. Amigo Association honors a Mexican citizen with the title of "Mr. Amigo," and that person acts as a goodwill ambassador between our two countries.

Brownsville and Matamoros hold an annual Charro Days Festival, a pre-Lenten festival, much like Marti Gras in New Orleans. Charro Days festivities will last for several days; this year they will be February 25–28. There will be parades and appearances by Ortiz, who, incidentally, is not related to me, and who is an international actor, producer and director. Charro Days is an opportunity to enjoy the unique border culture of the Rio Grande Valley area.

During Charro Days, South Texas celebrate the food, music, dances and traditions of both the United States and Mexico. The U.S.-Mexican border has a unique, blended history of cowboys, bandits, farmers, fishermen, oil riggers, soldiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and teachers.

The border has its own language and customs. On both sides of the border, there is a deep sense of history, much of which the border has seen from the front row. We have seen war and peace, we have known prosperity and bad times. Charro Days is a time for all of us to reflect on our rich history, to remember our past and to celebrate our future.

Ortiz, the 1998 Mr. Amigo, is widely known in Mexican-Latin American entertainment circles. He has performed in 75 theater productions, 23 feature films, 24 soap operas, nine comedies, and a host of other theater events and productions. He has directed hundreds of productions for Televisa and produced over 35 theater events.

The Mr. Amigo Award was conceived in 1964 as a annual tribute to an outstanding Mexican citizen. Each year, the Mr. Amigo selection highlights a man or woman who has made a lasting contribution to international solidarity and goodwill.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Jorge Ortiz de Pinedo, the 1998 Mr. Amigo, as well as the cities of Brownsville and Matamoros, for their dedication to international goodwill between the United States and Mexico.

TRIBUTE TO ST. FRANCES DE
SALES SCHOOL

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the St. Francis de Sales School in celebration of its 50th anniversary. In recognition of this occasion, the students, staff, teachers, parents, alumni, administration and clergy members are deserving of the heartiest congratulations and highest commendations.

Since its founding in 1948 by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, St. Francis de Sales has established a proud tradition of encouraging students to study and live the Catholic tradition of proclaiming gospel values, community involvement, and of giving service to those in need.

The students of St. Francis de Sales should be commended for their contributions to the poor and less fortunate, by organizing regular food and donation drives benefitting needy organizations in the area.

It is because of the awareness and dedication of responsible citizens in our country, exemplified by the students of St. Francis de Sales School, that today's true role models can become more well known.

I take great pleasure in recognizing St. Frances de Sales School upon the occasion of its 50th anniversary, and I commend the students, staff, teachers, parents, administrators, and clergy members for the outstanding contribution they have made to the community over the years.

Please join me, on this monumental day, in saluting the very important contribution to excellence made by St. Frances de Sales School.

HOME TO STAY

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a poem with my colleagues that was written by one of my constituents, Stanley Karczeuski. Stanley wrote this poem while he was serving aboard the SS *John Ainsworth* during World War II.

HOME TO STAY

I won't rejoice or boast or brag,

On that eventful day,

I'll just thank God I'm still alive,

And going home to stay.

I've counted days and months and years,

Since I have been away,

But now my counting days are done,

I'm going home to stay.

They wanted us to do a job,

Which was all work, no play,

And now the job is done, and I

Am going home to stay.

There'll be parades for heroes all,

And services to pray,

For both those men returning home,

And those who had to stay.

It's these thoughts while homeward bound,

Upon my mind do prey,

While those who fought and died remain,

I'm going home to stay.